end of March, 1993, viz., at (1) Tentulikhunti (2) MV 79 (3) Deogaon (4) Rajkishore Nagar (5) Belda (6) Ramgiri (7) Bhojpur (8) Kotihar (9) Sujanpur and (10) Biribati.

123 exchanges have been provided with STD facilities during the current year from 1-4-92 to 28-2-93. 11 more exchanges are likely to be provided with STD facility by end of March, 1993 at Simulia (2) Baramba (3) Narasingpur (4) Telkoi (5) Tirtol (6) Binka (7) Jaipatna (8) Motu (9) R. Udaygiri (10) Kalimela and (11) M. V. 79.

Statement-II

Principal features of plan for telecom. development/expansion in Mayurbhanj District of Orissa are indicated below :—

(i) All the electro-mechanical exchanges have been replaced by electronic exchanges during 1992-93;

(ii) 160 public telephones at Gram Panchayat headquarters already opened by February, 1993 and 30 more public telephones at Gram Panchayat headquarters are expected by March, 1993;

(iii) 2500 lines C. DOT MAX exchange at Baripada, 512 Port ILT exchange at Udala and Betnoti and 512 P. C. DOT exchange at Karanjia are planned for installation during 1993-94;

(iv) Telecom. facilities are planned to be provided at all Gram Panchayat headquarters by March, 1995;

(v) Reliable transmission media on optical fibre and UHF have been planned for important stations in Mayurbhanj District during 8th Plan period and STD facility is likely to be provided to all exchanges in this district by March, 1995.

Telegraph Office at Abohar in Punjab

3413. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the teleprinters installed in the telegraph office at Abobhar in Punjab are more than 25 years old and have become incapable to meet heavy rush of telegrams;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to replace these teleprinters with the electronic ones;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the telegraph office is located in a very small room to accommodate the staff posted there and a machine installed there for booking of telegrams is lying unused for the last ten years; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the action Government propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that the teleprinters installed at ABOHAR Posts & Telegraph Combined office are old. But the Machines are working quite satisfactory.

(b) Yes, Sir. These old model machines will be replaced by Electronic Teleprinters which have already been received at Abohar.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Additional accommodation has already been made available and the present accommodation is found to be adequate. The cash registerex machine for booking is faulty. Action has been initiated by the Deptt. of Posts to get the machine repaired in this combined Posts & Telegraph office.

Telephone system operating with Solar Energy

3414. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that a French Company TRT has developed a telephone system operating with the solar energy for use in non-accessible remote and hilly terrains; and

(b) If so, whether Government consider adopting this eco-friendly system for linking up far-flung rural and hilly areas in the country to provide communications links ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Yes, Sir. Department of Telecommunications is aware of such a system.

(b) Department of Telecommunications is already using Analogue telephone systems operating with solar energy in rural/remote areas. The Department is also consider-